MR. CHAIRMAN: I adjourn the House until 11.30 AM.

The House then adjourned at six minutes past eleven of the clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

later-continental Projects of Engineers India Limited

**320 (A). SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineers India Limited is planning intercontinental projects for execution in the coming yean; and

(b) if so, what are the countries in which these project are likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) M/s. Engineers India Limited currently have consultancy/engineering assignments in Iran and Algeria. They are also seeking business opportunities in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Baharain and Abu Dhabi in addition to the above countries.

Funding arrangements for suburban Commuter Rail Projects in Bombay

*321. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement between Government and IRCON (Indian Railway Construction Company) has been proposed by Railways for funding of the Suburban Railway Project in Bombay;

(b) whether the proposal has been approved by Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

Previously ftarred Question 341 transferred from 17 the December, 1992.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The proposal for commercial exploitation of air space over railway land for funding Railway Projects, in collaboration with Indian Railway Construction Company and Bombay Metropolitan Region Development Authority, is in conceptual stage.

Import and Sale of Ginseng Formulation as an Ayurvedic product

*322. SHRI N.E. BALARAM:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drug Controller of Indian and Government have decided to allow import and sale of Ginseng formulations as an ayurvedic product in the domestic market;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the prominent Indian Doctors have warned of adverse side-effects from longterm use of this medicine; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) The Drugs Controller (India) has, on the advice of the Ayurvedic Adviser, allowed the import of Ginseng as raw material for manufacture of Ayurvedic formulations.

(b) No such reports have come to Government's notice.

(c) Does not arise.

वन क्षेत्रों में सड़कें

*323. श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में वन क्षेत्रों से होकर जाने वाली नई सड़कों के निर्माण कार्य में वहां के वन विभाग द्वारा भूमि अंतरित न किये जाने के कारण बाधा आ रही है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इनमें से अधिकांश

सड़कें वे हैं, जिन्हें ग्रामीण भूमिहीन रोजगार योजना और आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के अंतर्गत दस्यु बहुल क्षेत्रों में स्वीकृति दी गई है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या इस समस्या के समाधान संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) और (ख) 30.11.1992 की स्थिति के अनुसार सड़कों के निर्माण हेतु वन भूमि के उपयोग के बारे में वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के अन्तर्गत मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त कोई प्रस्ताव केन्द्र सरकार के पास लम्बित नहीं है।

(ग) और (घ) वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के अंतर्गत प्राप्त प्रस्तावों के और विकेन्द्रीकरण तथा जांच को सरल एवं कारगर बनाने के लिए दिनांक 25.10.1992 को संशोधित समेकित दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं।

Pollution and Health Hazard Caused by Molasses of Sugar Factories

*324 SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing menace of Pollution and health hazard caused by molasses of sugar factories in sugar producing states during the last three years;

(b) if so, what is the extent of pollution caused thereby;

(c) whether Government have taken any effective steps in this regard in the country in general and Maharashtra in particular during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The effluent generated from the production of sugar has high organic loading owing to the presence of molasses. This effluent when discharged untreated into water bodies causes depletion of dissolved oxygen, thereby deteriorating the water quality. Storage of molasses in unlined pits can cause pollution of the ground water through seepage.

(c) and (d) The Government has identified sugar industry as one of the. 17 categories of the heavily polluting sectors and action plans have been prepared for these industries to comply with the prescribed standards. As per the time-bound programme given, all the units set on or before the 16th May, 1981 and those set up after 16th May, 1981 are to meet the prescribed standards by 31.12.93 and 31.12.92 respectively. As reported by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, in Maharashtra out of the 105 sugar units, 84 arc complying with the prescribed standards and others have submitted time-bound programmes for compliance.

"Wet land in the Country"

©*325. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total wet land in the country;

(b) whether any wet land has been identified for conservation and management on priority basis; and

(c) if so, the action plan prepared for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A total survey of all wet lands in the country has not been carried out. However, an inventory of wetlands prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests lists 192 natural and 678 man-made wetlands in 26 States/Union Territories of the country.

(b) Sixteen wetlands have been

® Previously Starred Question 267, transferred from 11th December, 1992.